POL 15 U VOLTA

(11)

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* XR POL 19 U VOLTA

Origin Ouagadougou 245

XR POL 23-9 U VOLTA

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Action
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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 245
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 134
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 66
RUQSDA/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 36
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY COTONOU 89
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY LOME 77
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 90
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 126
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JANUARY 7

REF: EMBTEL 240 — POL 15 U VOLTA
POL MAAG-U VOLTA

1. DESPITE GOVT RADIO STATEMENT NEW CABINET WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY NOON TODAY, NEGOTIATIONS STILL CONTINUING. NO HARD INFO ON RESULTS. COL LAMIZANA HAS TALKED PRIMARILY WITH UNIONISTS AND IN BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON REFERRED TO "CABINET TECHNICIANS".

2. CITY HAS RETURNED NORMAL BUT THERE CONSIDERABLE UNDERLYING TENSION OWING PRIMARILY UNSETTLED FATE YAMEOGO AND SLOWNESS ORGANIZATION NEW GOVT. ONE MANY RUMORS IS US GAVE 44 REVOLVERS TO YAMEOGO DURING DEMONSTRATIONS JAN 3.

3. PRESIDENT'S WHEREABOUTS AGAIN UNCERTAIN. [redacted] STATES HE NOW AT OUAGADOUGOU MILITARY CAMP. AS THERE NO OTHER MAN CLEARLY QUALIFIED ASSUME GOVT-POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, AND AS THERE MINIMUM ORGANIZATION AMONG DISPARATE GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN HAPHAZARD COUP, ALL INVOLVED EXTREMELY NERVOUS OVER ANY POSSIBILITY YAMEOGO RETURN POWER. LAMIZANA CERTAINLY UNDER STRONG PRESSURE EMPRISON YAMEOGO TO ENSURE DOES NOT LEAVE UPPER VOLTA.

4. COL LAMIZANA VERY HESITANT AT NOON PRESS CONFERENCE. MADE NO STATEMENT AND WAS ASKED BUT THREE QUESTIONS. FIRST WAS "WHO ARE YOU?" [redacted]. ANSWERED WAS ARMY OFFICER AND GAVE BRIEF ACCOUNT HIS SERVICE. IN REPLY OTHERS, SAID TOOK POWER AS ALTERNATIVE TO SHEDDING BLOOD AND MOB RULE, AND THAT IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WERE FORMATION PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND RELAUNCHING NATIONAL ECONOMY.

GP-3. ROBERTS
BT

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